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Apt choice for C.I.A.

PRESIDENT Carter has made a satisfactory recovery from the setback he received in nominating Theodore Sorensen to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Carter's second choice for the top spy post left unfilled by the withdrawal of Sorensen in the face of Senate opposition is Adm. Stansfield Turner.

The admiral is an admirable choice.

Turner's career has combined academic and military achievement. He is a man of thought and a man of action.

Turner has expressed concern

about the damage which intemperate remarks in Washington, D.C., can have. Writing in the January issue of Foreign Affairs magazine, he observed:

"A doomsday picture convincingly drawn for a congressional budgetary committee may negatively influence other nations' perceptions of our naval effectiveness."

"And a few extra ships in the budget or at sea may not be enough to overcome an inaccurate perception of weakness."

That's the sort of perspective one expects the nation's top spy master to possess.